

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON  
OF THE GUNNISON AND THOSE  
WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

As the House sponsor of legislation that redesignated the Black Canyon as a national park, it gives me great joy to describe for this esteemed body's record the beauty of this truly majestic place. In addition, I would like to offer my gratitude to a community of individuals instrumental in the long process that ultimately yielded the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has visited the Black Canyon can attest to its awe-inspiring natural beauty. Named for the dark rock that makes up its sheer walls, the Black Canyon is largely composed of what geologists call basement rocks, the oldest rocks on the earth estimated at 1.7 billion years old. With its narrow openings, sheer walls, and scenic gorges that plunge 2000 feet into the clear blue majesty of the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is a natural crown jewel second to none in its magnificent splendor. Though other canyons may have greater depth or descend on a steeper course, few combine these attributes as breathtakingly as does the Black Canyon.

If ever there was a place worthy of the prestigious status that only national park status

can afford, Mr. Speaker, it is the Black Canyon. But as you know, national parks don't just happen. In this case, it took nearly 15 years, several Congressional Representatives and Senators, innumerable locally elected officials, and a virtual sea of committed citizens in western Colorado.

Included in this group are the good people of Crawford, Colorado. During this long and at times difficult process, Crawford's civic leaders have given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without Crawford's leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of Crawford who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

REA CAREY HONORED FOR HER  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AT THE  
NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCACY CO-  
ALITION

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rea Carey, founding Executive Director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC). NYAC is the only National organization solely focused on advocacy, education,

and information addressing the broad range of issues facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered youth. Since the founding of the organization in 1993, Carey has worked with the board and staff to develop NYAC as an organization committed to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered youth leadership, national vision driven by community-based needs, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered youth activism without a broader social justice context.

Rea's list of accomplishments in her six-year tenure is as extensive as it is impressive. Through her leadership, the NYAC's budget has grown from \$80,000 per year to \$900,000 per year, the staff has grown from one to eleven, and the breadth and depth of its work increased as well. Among other things, the NYAC convenes a "National Summit" every year focused entirely on the political, social, and mental/physical health issues facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered youth. It provides skills building and leadership training for youth, technical assistance to community organizations, fundraising, referral networks, and other many other services.

Rea's large contribution to this success was recognized this year, when she was given an "Award of Excellence" by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health for her "imaginative and creative efforts" in helping to educate America's young people about preventing HIV infection.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all my colleagues to join me in honoring Rea Carey. While her good work at NYAC is done, I am sure that her career of good works is only beginning.